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**ROBERT STUBBLEFIELD, AND HIS SON, JOHN  
STUBBLEFIELD, PIONEERS OF McLEAN  
COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

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BY GEORGE W. STUBBLEFIELD

Mr. Robert Stubblefield, subject of the following brief sketch, was born in the county of Halifax, State of Virginia, on the twenty-third day of November, A. D. 1793, and departed this life, suddenly, while in conversation with his son Jesse, sitting on the porch of his residence, on Wednesday, the eighth day of June, A. D. 1870, being seventy-six years, six months and fifteen days old.

He was baptized in infancy, in the Church of England, at Westover Chapel.

In his nineteenth year, at the first call for volunteers, he entered the service of his country, in the war of 1812. His company, consisting of ninety-six men, exclusive of officers, was stationed at Norfolk, Virginia; and all, except himself and one other soldier, soon died of the yellow fever, and he himself came very near dying of that fearful malady. He was regularly discharged, though by the death of his captain he failed to obtain his discharge papers; and by the authorities was conveyed to the place of his enlistment to die among his friends. By this removal and the attention of his friends, his life was preserved. His friends again removed him to the home of his brother, Edward Stubblefield; here he soon recovered his health; and his brother having located land in Ohio, and wishing to see after it, Robert, desiring to see the country, accompanied him thither, in 1812. He was now nineteen years of age. Mr. Edward Stubblefield, when locating land in Ohio, had boarded with Mr. Adam Funk, and had sold him some four hundred acres of land; and hence Edward and Robert directed their way to the house of Mr. Adam Funk, and thus, on his twentieth birthday, commenced his acquaintance with the family of Mr. Adam Funk.

He was married to Miss Sarah Funk, the fourteenth day of April, 1814, who died the thirteenth day of December, 1821.

About one month before her death she obtained the "pearl of great price," and died in the full hope of eternal life, requesting her husband so to raise their children that they might all meet her in heaven. Eight days after her death, her mother, Mrs. Nancy Funk, also died, in the hope of a better life in a brighter land. The triumphant death of these two individuals had a sanctifying influence, resulting in the reformation of the large part of the family of Robert Stubblefield and Adam Funk, and nearly all their family joined the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1822.

By this first marriage, Mr. Stubblefield had four children; Absalom, Ann, Mary and John.

On the twenty-ninth day of July, 1822, he was married to Miss Dorothy Funk, sister of his former wife, and who had joined the Methodist Episcopal Church on the eighteenth day of February, 1822. By this latter marriage, Mr. Stubblefield had nine children: George Meley, Jesse, Francis, Adam, Eve, Edward, Isaac, Frank, William Royal Chase and Charles Wesley, in all thirteen children. Jesse, the sixth child of Mr. Stubblefield, was the first white child born in Funk's Grove. Adam died, returning from Memphis, whither he had gone to visit Isaac, his sick soldier brother, and to seek for him a furlough, and bring him home.

These twelve children, together with forty-eight grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, ten sons and daughters-in-law, five grandsons and daughters-in-law, and the bereft widow, in all eighty-two, were present at the funeral obsequies of Mr. Stubblefield.

Robert Stubblefield was a son of Edward Stubblefield, senior, who was the son of John Stubblefield, who, with two brothers, Edward and William, came from England; Edward Stubblefield, senior, the father of Robert Stubblefield, married Miss Mary Lightfoot Munford, daughter of William Greene Munford; his wife's maiden name was Ann Stanhope; their daughter, Mary Lightfoot Munford, in the Revolutionary War, acted as private secretary to her father. Edward Stubblefield, senior, was a captain of a company in Colonel Munford's regiment. Mr. Robert Stubblefield, the subject of this sketch, was therefore a grandson of Mr. William Greene Munford and Ann Munford. Mr. Munford was from England, and served his adopted country as a colonel in the Revolutionary War. The Colonel not only devoted his personal energies, but loaned the government a

large amount of his means toward freeing his country from the Britannic yoke.

This loan, in consequence of the loss of the papers by fire, was never recovered, but in virtue of a provision made by Congress for the compensation of the Revolutionary soldiers and officers, Mrs. Mary Lightfoot Stubblefield, after the death of her father, Col. Munford, and being at the time his only surviving child, applied for and obtained a land warrant from the government for 6,666 acres of land. This warrant was laid on land in Ohio.

Mrs. Sarah, the first wife, and Mrs. Dorothy Stubblefield, the second wife of Robert Stubblefield, were daughters of Mr. Adam Funk.

Robert Stubblefield moved to Illinois in November, 1824. He stopped a short time with friends near the state line, between Indiana and Illinois, thinking to remain there over winter. But in consequence of a disease prevailing in the community, he determined to press on to his intended locality and reached Randolph Grove the sixteenth of December. He tarried here at the house of Gardner Randolph only two days, and on the eighteenth of December, 1824, he reached Funk's Grove, and stopped at the only house in the grove, a log-cabin, built by Absalom and Isaac Funk, and occupied by William Brock and family, with whom the two bachelor brothers boarded. Mr. Stubblefield brought with him his own family, consisting of his wife and five children. In Mr. Brock's log-cabin, with only one room, these three families spent six days together, doubtless very comfortably. During the interim Mr. Stubblefield, with the assistance of the entire community, erected a second log-cabin in the grove, near the first mentioned. In these two cabins the entire inhabitants of Funk's Grove passed their first winter in Illinois—the winter of 1824 and 1825.

During the next spring and summer, besides the necessary arrangements for, and the cultivation of, his first crop in Illinois, Mr. Stubblefield erected another and a more commodious and comfortable log-cabin on the bank of Sugar Creek on the north side of Funk's Grove, into which he moved his family in September, 1825. In the meantime, Jesse Stubblefield was added to the family, July 30th, 1825, the first white child born in Funk's Grove. About five years after this, Mr. Stubblefield built the third huge log-cabin, in which he lived eighteen years. This had a large room which served the use of the family and the

purposes of public worship. Afterward he built him a pretty commodious frame house, some two hundred yards north-west of his former home, where he continued to reside until the time of his death.

He was a man of stern integrity and firmness. When his judgment was formed, whether in politics or religion, it was next to impossible to move him from his purpose, or change that judgment. And one acquainted with him rarely attempted it. Perhaps the pertinacity with which he adhered to his own judgment sometimes became a fault.

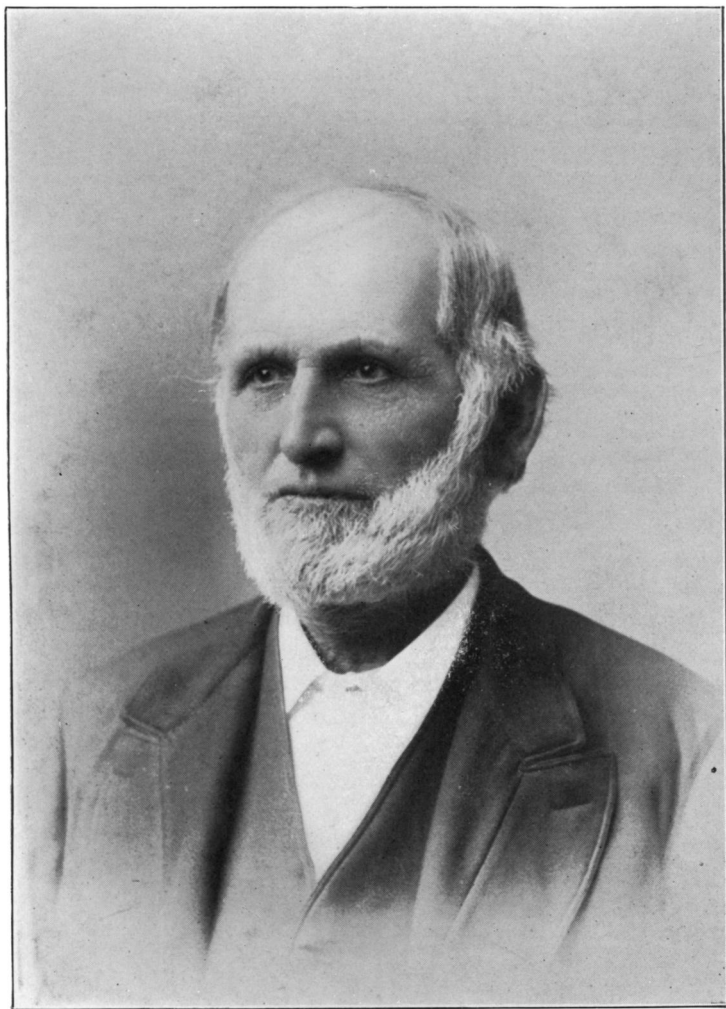
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### JOHN STUBBLEFIELD

The Stubblefield family originated in England, three brothers, Edward, William and John, first emigrating from the mother country to America. The last named was the grandfather of John Stubblefield, whose life is here recorded. Edward and Mary (Munford) Stubblefield were the paternal grandparents and their lives were passed in Halifax County, Virginia.

When Robert Stubblefield brought his family from Fayette County, Ohio, to Funk's Grove, McLean County, his son John was about four and a half years old. He was educated in the district schools, and his playmates were the native Indian children who inhabited this locality, and they were numerous in 1824. When he had reached man's estate, he rented land of his father for about three years, after which, in 1844, he entered forty acres of land at \$1.25 an acre. In 1846 he built a house on this tract of land; in 1857 he erected a more commodious residence, and this was ever after his home until his death, although he so increased his landed possessions that he eventually owned two thousand acres. For years he carried on extensive operations in general farming and stock raising, but gradually shared his large estate with his children until he only owned two hundred acres. For years he made a specialty of Percheron horses.

Mr. Stubblefield had been a Republican since the party came into existence, and before its organization he was a Whig. He served as supervisor of Funk's Grove Township for twelve years; was a member of the building committee which erected the Court House destroyed by fire; and was treasurer of the School Board for thirty years.



JOHN STUBBLEFIELD

Since he was eighteen years of age he had been a faithful and working member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as was his venerable and honored wife. Nine children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Stubblefield, as follows: Sarah E., David R., George W., Phineas M., Mary Frances, Henry B., Simon P., Eddie (deceased) and John W. The last named resides on the family homestead.

Mr. Stubblefield died at his home in Funk's Grove in August, 1911.

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### ELLISANNAH HOUSER STUBBLEFIELD

Wife of John Stubblefield, and the daughter of David Houser and Elizabeth Dillman Houser, was born September 5th, 1820.

Her father, David Houser, was the son of Abraham Houser, of Hagerstown, Maryland, and his father, Abraham Houser, was born in Wendenberg, Germany, in the year of 1740. When he came to America he settled in Maryland, and was a Dunkard preacher.

He would not accept pay for his services, saying the gospel is and always should be free.

He owned and operated a grist mill, which had a whiskey still attached. The members of his church furnished the grain for charity purposes; he would distill it and make whiskey, which was sold and the proceeds used for charity work.

On December 2d, 1842, in Felicity, Clearmont County, Ohio, occurred the marriage of John Stubblefield and Ellisannah Houser.

The fiftieth anniversary of this most happy occurrence was celebrated December 2d, 1892, at the farm residence of Mr. and Mrs. John Stubblefield, at Funk's Grove, Illinois.

Mr. Stubblefield met his life mate at a singing school in Funk's Grove; she was visiting her sister, who had moved here from her home in Ohio.

Mr. Stubblefield made the trip to Ohio after his bride, going overland in a two-horse covered wagon, a journey of over three hundred miles. After the wedding they returned to their future home by wagon, camping on the way.

At first the young couple lived in a log cabin on the north edge of Funk's Grove; the roof was made of clapboards weighted down with poles.

Mrs. Stubblefield was a lover of home and took great comfort

in caring for and training her children. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and died March 3d, 1895.

"When we remember how our mother held us in her tender arms, nourished us upon her maternal bosom; kissed away our tears and fears with her own sweet lips of love; watched our first footsteps and marked with maternal interest the first words we uttered; how she followed our growing form and expanding mind to manhood and womanhood, it is not surprising that such a poet as Cowper should write, on seeing a portrait of his dead mother:

"Oh that these lips had language!  
 Life has passed with me but roughly,  
 Since I heard them last,  
 My mother, when I learned that thou wast dead,  
 Say, wast thou conscious of the tears I shed?  
 Hovered thy spirit o'er thy sorrowing son;  
 Wretch, even then, life's journey just begun.  
 Perhaps thou gavest me, though unfelt, a kiss,  
 Perhaps a tear, if souls can weep in bliss.  
 Ah, that maternal smile, it answers yes."





ELLISANNAH HOUSER STUBBLEFIELD  
WIFE OF JOHN STUBBLEFIELD